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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04941 052230Z

70
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 XMB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIEP-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03

IGA-02 DRC-01 /075 W
---------- 024876
R 052133Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7167

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, CU, AR
SUBJ: WESTINGHOUSE EXPORT CASE

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 3501
B) STATE 055325
C) STATE 049550

1. THIS MESSAGE IS TO BRING UP-TO-DATE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE COVERED IN REFERENCED MESSAGES. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT CONCERNING SUBJECT CASE SINCE RECEIPT REFTEL B. FROM THERMO KING REPS, EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE THAT THIS FIRM HAS RESUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE AND WAS AWAITING A NEW DECISION FROM US AUTHORITIES. THE LAST SUCH CONTACT AND INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM THE THERMO KING REP WHO WAS IN BUENOS AIRES DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JUNE WHEN HIS FIRM EXHIBITED AUTO-TRUCK/TRAILER REFRIGERATING EQUIPMENT AT THE US TRADE CENTER.

2. SINCE SUBMITTING REFTEL A, EMBOFFS HAVE RECEIVED REPEATED CALLS FROM PRESIDENT OF AIR CAR, THE ARGENTINE SALES REP FOR THERMO KING. THIS IS THE FIRM WHICH APPARENTLY SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE RAILWAY CAR BUILDER WHO HAS A PURCHASE ORDER FROM CUBA. AIR CAR'S PRESIDENT CONTINUED TO INDICATE TO EMBASSY THAT THERE WAS REASON FOR URGENCY IN THE USG REACHING A FAVORABLE
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04941 052230Z

DECISION TO ALLOW SUPPLY OF THE EQUIPMENT BECAUSE FAILURE TO

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

DO SO WOULD CAUSE BAD PUBLICITY FOR THE US IN ARGENTINA. EMBOFFS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD HIM THAT DECISIONS ON SUBJECT WERE ONLY TAKEN IN WASHINGTON AND THAT WE LACKED INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

3. ON MORNING JULY 5 PRESIDENT OF AIR CAR CALLED EMBOFF AND INDICATED HE FAILED UNDERSTAND WHY NO FAVORABLE DECISION HAD BEEN FORTHCOMING AND THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO STALL HIS CLIENT, THE RAILWAY CAR BUILDER, ANY MORE. WHEN EMBOFF INDICATED EMBASSY HAS NO BASIS FOR DETERMINING PRECISELY WHEN FINAL US RULING WOULD BE MADE NOR BASIS FOR ANTICIPATING DECISION WOULD BE FAVORABLE, AIR CAR PRESIDENT REACTED STRONGLY. INDICATED HE ANTICIPATED CALEGARI, THE RAILWAY CAR BUILDER, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY CAR BUILDERS WILL PROBABLY REACT SOON BY CALLING ATTENTION OF GOA AND PRESS TO THEIR INABILITY TO SECURE PRODUCTS BECAUSE OF US POLICY TOWARD CUBA AND POINTING TOWARD THE DAMAGE THIS DOES TOWARD ARGENTINE INDUSTRY.

4. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT AIR CAR PRESIDENT KNOWS OF GREGG CASE BUT IT IS HARDLY POSSIBLE THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY CAR BUILDERS IS IGNORANT OF IT. EMBASSY FEELS WE MAY BE ON THE EVE OF ANOTHER UNPLEASANT INCIDENT STEMMING FROM PUBLICITY DISAPPOINTED ARGENTINE INDUSTRIALISTS MAY CHOOSE TO GIVE THESE CASES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, REFRIGERATING EQUIPMENT, ROLLING STOCK, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS04941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740179-0730
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740774/aaaacldf.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BUENOS AIRES 3501
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WESTINGHOUSE EXPORT CASE
TAGS: ECON, ETRD, CU, AR, US, WESTINGHOUSE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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